

The Drive Methodist Church  
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

# NEWSLETTER

October 2020



Minister: Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

[www.drive-methodist.church](http://www.drive-methodist.church)

## **Church Mission Statement of The Drive Methodist Church**

The Drive Methodist Church aims to be faithful to the commandments of Jesus, and the calling of the Methodist Church.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission, and to fulfil the promises detailed in the Methodist worship book.

Provide a weekly opportunity for all people to worship God in Christ, here at The Drive Methodist Church.

Enable people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care.

Be a good neighbour to the immediate and wider community. Sharing our faith with others through pastoral care, church activities and communication.

## **Our Minister writes:**

Friends,

Reading through a Sunday notice sheet of one of our churches, I came across the reflection below. It spoke of what had become my battle or struggle over the last few months as I delivered food parcels to some of the needy families across Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham boroughs.

### **A REFLECTION FOR HARVEST**

Going to a foodbank to receive a parcel of (mainly long-life) food can be a strange and humbling experience. Volunteers work hard to provide a warm welcome, restore dignity and offer choice – but dependence on the kindness of strangers is not quite the same as the freedom of a supermarket run. For volunteers, similarly, the experience can be unsettling; handing someone a bag of pasta can seem an inadequate response to the enormity of circumstances. However, like the provision of manna in the wilderness, it is important to remember that the foodbank is intended to serve as a short-term solution to an immediate problem for people en route to a more plentiful place. Foodbanks work in partnership with many referral agencies, which include the Citizen's Advice Bureau, local Council Benefit Support Team, debt-relief agencies, health services, social services, housing providers and schools. They can help relieve the pressure created by immediate food poverty, whilst these specialist agencies ensure further support is put in place to help people get their lives back on track. In addition, teams of trained sign-posters are also on-hand in food distribution sessions to point clients towards further help.

This harvest, please pray for foodbank clients who are travelling through the wilderness and have lost hope of

coming out the other side. Please pray that through the food they receive, they will also taste something of God's great love for them – a God who both sees their immediate need, and who cares passionately about their future. Pray also that God will help the foodbanks and their partner agencies to keep their eyes fixed on the long-term destination of restoration, greater independence, and security for those clients, even when circumstances seem overwhelming. Pray for wisdom, creativity, perseverance, and courage as they support people in their journeys towards it, no matter how long or circuitous the route. With the increasing rate of infection again the work of food banks and local food delivery services will need more help and support to enable them to meet the growing demand for food. In a perfect world there would be no need for these services as all will have enough.

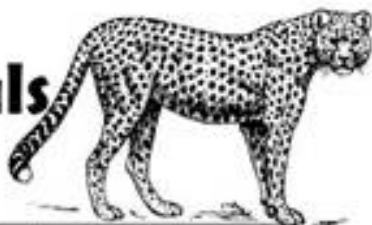
Unfortunately, our world is not perfect as greed and self-preservation leads us back to actions of March where people are buying more than they need. Our world is not perfect as those with small businesses are forced to close down and lose livelihoods for themselves and those they employ, and even big business are cutting large numbers of jobs.

Our world is not perfect as there are many who still sleep rough and many at risk in their homes (domestic violence). Our world is not perfect as we blame each other for the pandemic and its increase again. Whilst we live in an imperfect world, we can act in a way that ensures that all people feel valued, that we all share in what we have, that we do our best to keep each other safe.

Shalom  
Mmasape

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Jungle Animals Word Search



GORILLA

CHEETAH

CHIMPANZEE

CROCODILE

KOMODO DRAGON

LEMUR

LEOPARD

MANDRILL

MONGOOSE

OKAPI

PANTHER

ORANGUTAN

MONKEY

RHINO

KOALA

© Monsterwordsearch.com



*Our church is open for worship*

# *Alleluia*

*We hold in mind .....*

All in our church family who are coping with long term ill health and the added difficulties of these uncertain times, those in hospital awaiting diagnosis and treatment and those recovering from operations and recuperating at home.

We keep in mind those who feel sad or confused; whose illness is not obvious to see. Also, those hard working souls who care and support others.



## **Congratulations and Best Wishes**

During September, Amy and Derek celebrated their 36<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, as did Diane and Jeremy. They were closely followed by Masape and Jonji who celebrated 30 years of marriage. We wish them all many more happy years together.

Birthday Wishes to Anne Dellow and Janet Brunnen.

Thea is now installed in her student accomodation at Southampton Uni.

To Rohit who will be at Manchester Uni. We miss you both already.

## *Macmillan Coffee Morning*

I really missed the fundraising events held respectively by Janet, Geoff and Audrey to raise funds for this incredibly special charity. I always found a bargain and a good book, not to mention the yummy cakes. As suggested by Audrey, I made a cup of coffee and sent her a donation, while looking to the future when we will again be able to host even more events to support the charities we hold dear. I'm sure Audrey is still welcoming donations.

Well done Janet, Geoff and Audrey for the past successful fundraising. LB

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**The Drive Methodist Church is pleased to be supporting Uniting Friends during this pandemic, who will be using the Parlour for their meetings and activities**

**Uniting Friends is a social inclusion project for adults with a learning disability.**

Our services cover Redbridge, Newham, Havering, Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham and Essex.

Our vision is for a world which recognises values and celebrates the lives and equal participation of people with a learning disability in society.

Our purpose is **to provide opportunities** for people to take part in social and educational activities in order to **express their unique identities** and develop their skills to **reach their full potential** in the community.

We are a user-led service, which ensures that adults with a learning disability take a leading role in defining and running their own provision.

## NHS COVID 19 Test & Trace QR Codes

In line with UK Government guidance we have set up NHS COVID19 Test & Trace QR codes which are now displayed in both the Church and Hall foyers.

If you have the NHS Test & Trace application on your smart phone, please scan the code whenever you enter either building. This will ensure that your presence is recorded by NHS Test & Trace.

HOWEVER, for the Sunday service it remains essential that the duty steward continues to manually record your attendance so that the church records are complete and accurate.

I would also stress the importance of sanitising your hands whenever you visit the premises. This applies to all visits such as flower arranging, maintenance, security rota etc.

## **OCTOBER – Its Black History Month**

### **Sybil Phoenix: building the first black youth club**

Sybil Phoenix (Born 1927) – a Guyanese who moved to London in the 1950s, built the first black youth club in Britain, changed the Church's understanding of race relations and was the first black woman recipient of the MBE.

Sybil Phoenix (née Marshall) spent her first thirty years in her native British Guiana (now Guyana). She was a trained classical singer and seamstress, ran a sportswear and leather goods business and was a youth worker at Clubland, run by the Methodist Church in Georgetown. Despite her accomplishments, when she and her fiancé Joe, moved to London in 1956 they knew the same hurtful experiences that any black immigrant encountered. They married at Shepherds Bush Methodist Church and soon moved to Lewisham.

Around 1961 she responded to a social worker's urging to take up foster care, and over several decades her extended family grew to hundreds. She raised the money to build the first black youth club in Britain. When it was burned down by the National Front in 1977 she announced, "My name is Phoenix and with the help of God I will build a new centre from the ashes." This she did within four years, and at the same time she opened a supported housing project for 21 single homeless women aged 16 – 25. In 1973 she was the first black woman to be awarded the MBE. Followed by the OBE in 2008. She was the Mayoress of Lewisham in 1998-9.

Her greatest contribution to Methodism has been a paper which challenged and changed the Church's understanding of and approach to race relations. As a result, she co-founded, the Methodist (later Methodist and Ecumenical) Race Awareness Workshops. Her unquestioning care for

people and her campaign against any kind of discrimination had a profound effect on many people, as did her firm belief that a battle against unjust structures does not have to involve bitterness.

### ***Methodist Website***

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### **Family News from Sheela Selwyn**

Rohit is now at Manchester University as after regrading he got his first choice and the family went with him to drop him off. He is doing well and has only online classes.

Renyl has joined NCS Sixth Form where he was previously on the waiting list. Renyl is currently self-isolating as one of his close contacts tested positive. He has been tested and is waiting for the results. Until the results are known, we have to isolate.

But we are pleased that both boys are finally settled. My father in law is totally disorientated and not keeping too well as he is receiving palliative care and support therapy.

It has been a busy time especially as all the family live so far away.

**Please remember Sheela and all her family in your prayers.LB**



## **Franks Favourite Hymn sung to `Westminster Abbey'**

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever,  
and her confidence alone.

2 To this temple, where we call thee,  
come, O Lord of hosts, today:  
with thy constant loving-kindness  
hear thy people as they pray;  
and thy fullest benediction  
shed within its walls alway.

3 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
what they ask of thee to gain,  
what they gain from thee forever  
with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in thy glory  
evermore with thee to reign.

4 Laud and honour to the Father,  
laud and honour to the Son,  
laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory,  
while unending ages run.

**John Mason Neale STF 677**

## **LOCAL MUSIC CONNECTIONS**

Napoleon had invaded Vienna and the composer Ludwig Van Beethoven was sheltering in the basement of his brother's house. He was trying to protect his failing hearing amidst all the dreadful noise. So, what did he compose during that dangerous, frightening time? The result was the beautiful piano concerto No 5, now known as 'The Emperor'.

My mind went back to The Drive Church at the time when Frank Sayers was organist. He sometimes played part of the second movement – the slow movement – of The Emperor during the offertory. It is where the orchestra or organ begins very quietly and gently. The piano comes in much later. Only a genius like Beethoven could create something so beautiful amid the chaos around him.

The composer Rachmaninoff refused the offer to write music for the film 'Dangerous Moonlight', about a Polish pilot who was also a concert pianist. Richard Addinsell was asked to write 'music to sound like Rachmaninoff'. 'The Warsaw Concerto', as it is now known, was played magnificently by Roderick Elms on a recording included in John Suchet's Battle of Britain concert on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Roderick Elms was a neighbour of the Fosters in Bethall Avenue before moving his family to Southend. He played the organ at a wedding in 1981 at The Drive.

Life is different now, but sometimes happy moments occur unexpectedly. Let us grasp these moments and hope for a better future.

**Susan Ruckes**

## **Foster Family Update**

Lorraine has asked me to write something about what our family have been doing over the summer and whilst my first thought was "not much – there has been a lockdown" but I realise we have actually been quite busy.

Diane and I have been fortunate to be able to spend quite a lot of time in Horning over the summer. Whilst just being there is relaxing there always seems to be some maintenance to do (rather like the church)! Diane's sister Susan joined us there for a few days in September. She enjoyed a trip on the boat and feeding the ducks. Unfortunately, on the last evening she fell and smashed her nose on the concrete, so we spent the rest of the evening in Norwich A&E. Despite the mishap Susan enjoyed herself and we were pleased to have her company.

At the end of September Diane & I and my sisters Isobel and Ros and their husband's Mick and Dave headed north for a week's salmon fishing on the River Dee in Aberdeenshire. We took a leisurely three days to make the journey and drove along the Royal Deeside road past Balmoral which was very picturesque. Our daughter, Louise joined the party for the second half of the week, and I was totally delighted that she caught her first two salmon on the fly (I only caught one). All in all, the party caught 15 salmon which was our best week for many years.

Our son Matthew was deployed on board HMS Trent at the beginning of August. The ship is based in Gibraltar but has been "cruising" around the Mediterranean. The itinerary had included numerous ports of call, but due to Covid the schedule was cut back, although the ship did visit Malta and Cyprus. The ship will be returning to the UK in October for planned maintenance and Matthew will then have a month's leave.

He then deploys again and will sadly be away over Christmas. The deployment actually extends beyond 20 February which is the date he and Emily are due to be married. However, he has been promised special leave for the occasion.

Louise enjoys her life in Putney where she lives with her two housemates Sam and Alex. Since lockdown she has been working from home operating off two computer screens and having Zoom meetings with colleagues and clients. A couple of weekends ago she invited us over and Sam set up his garden cinema. We all sat outside and watched "October Sky" on a big screen whilst eating pizza, ice cream and popcorn. October Sky is the film of the book of the same title by Homer H Hickham. It is the true story of Homer's teenage years in a small coal mining town in America in the 1950's. Prospects are limited, and Homer expects to leave school and become a miner. However, the Russians have just put Sputnik into orbit and Homer is fascinated by the space race. He and three friends start to design and build their own rockets. They go on to win a major science fair through which they each gain offers of college scholarships. Homer went on to have a successful career with NASA. It is a fascinating book and an enjoyable film.

I think that brings us up to date.

Jeremy



## **COME, DON'T BE LATE**

About ten years ago, I was returning to work after lunch via the subway at Westminster Station. A young lady in her twenties, dressed in tee shirt and jeans was at the designated place for buskers. Her beautiful voice and expression had me spellbound as she sang in Italian 'come, don't be late', Susanna's aria from Mozart's opera 'The Marriage of Figaro'. The young lady sang as though she was on the stage at Covent Garden or Glyndebourne. Sadly, I had no time to ask her name, nor even to thank her for her singing. The same aria appears in an episode of Miss Marple. To say more might spoil the enjoyment of that programme.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Last Night of the Proms took place in the Royal Albert Hall without its usual packed flag waving audience. I listened to the 'prom' on Radio 3 while others watched the television broadcast on BBC1.

The Union Flag was outside my front room window (again) as I joined the BBC Symphony Chorus to sing 'Land of Hope and Glory', 'Rule Britannia', Jerusalem and two verses of the National Anthem. The BBC Symphony Orchestra began the concert by playing the overture to Mozart's opera 'The Marriage of Figaro'. South African soprano Golda Schultz then sang beautifully in Italian, 'Come, don't be late' which is now my favourite operatic aria.

**Susan Ruckes**

## Harvest Past

The word 'harvest' comes from the Old English word *hærfest* meaning 'autumn', aptly the season for gathering the food of the land. This was a vital time of year when success was a genuine matter of life or death. A prosperous harvest ensured that a community would be fed throughout the potentially barren winter months. It's therefore no surprise that it was also a time steeped in superstition and, if successful, much celebration. Many of these traditions even pre-date Christianity.

With technological advances lessening our dependence on the seasons and the number of people working on the land greatly reduced over the last two centuries, surviving practises are now mainly symbolic in nature. Even during the pre-mechanised past, it would be incorrect to suggest that there was a uniform approach to harvest or a common set of beliefs and customs, there were vast regional differences throughout the country. What did unite everyone though was the importance of crop gathering and the reverence in which harvest was held. What follows are some of the better-known examples from the past...

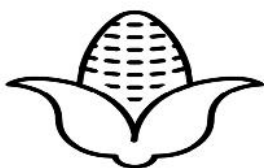
Roaming groups of labourers would seek employment from farms at the start of the season, in Norfolk they would drag their sickles along the floor to announce their arrival. A 'Lord of the Harvest' would be appointed and was in charge of negotiating rates and conditions of labour. Leading his workers ('reapers') as they scythed the fields, he would be served first at mealtimes.

The church festival that is the most common harvest celebration still held today originated in Morwenstow, Cornwall in 1843, when Reverend Robert Hawker invited the parishioners of his church into his home to receive the Sacrament in "the bread of the new corn." Whether from the



Divine, the elements or the mystical, all help was gratefully received.

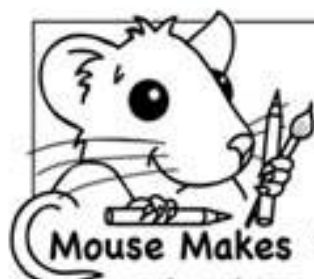
Now that most of us neither sow nor reap what we eat, it is almost impossible to imagine how crucial this time of year was in the calendar, but by knowing a little of the history and keeping these traditions alive we are honouring those who depended upon it.



## **ANNE and IAN WARDEN**

For those who remember Anne and Ian. I have heard that they have made their move from York and are now busy getting settled into their new flat overlooking the Marina in Ipswich.

*Anne and Ian were long serving Guide and Scout leaders here at The Drive. Wishing them peaceful and happy times in Ipswich. LB*



# A HARVEST PUZZLE

Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSCT 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.



IPOPVS

Can you find the mouse?



UIF MPSE



XJUI



ZPVS



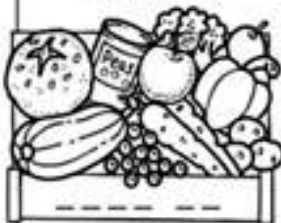
XFBMUI



BOE UIF



GJSTU



QBSU PG



ZPVS



IBSWFTU

Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

# **NHS VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS**

**DELIVERED BY**

**THE ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

Do you need some help at this time?

Do you need help to isolate due to a health condition?

If you need a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just want someone to talk to, our **NHS VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS** are here to help.

**CALL 0808 196 3646**

or go to

[nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk](https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk)

# Let's Keep Safe

## Remember.....

- **HANDS** - Wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.
- **FACE** - Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- **SPACE** - Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors).



**If you or anyone you know is experiencing distress or hardship due to Covid 19 please contact the Minister Reverend Mmasape Zihle.**

## ***A Prayer for Teachers during this Pandemic***

### ***Wisdom God,***

You teach us the ways of truth. Give us who teach the wisdom and knowledge to know how to reach each and every student. Give us an ability to rejoice in successes, both large and small, and to find words of wisdom and encouragement when there are failures.

### ***Patient God,***

You are always with us, encouraging us as we enter the classroom or the zoom-room. Give us an abundance of patience as we learn to juggle our teaching, sanitising, distancing, and masking, while trying to be attentive to the needs of our students. Help us to be patient with ourselves as well.

### ***O Loving God,***

You love us beyond measure. Remind us of that love as we look into the eyes of each student before us. Give us a gentle heart, a compassionate heart and a heart open to receive love.

May your wisdom O God be our wisdom, your patience, our patience and your love, our love.  
Amen

**Sister Paula Damiano**

## News of meetings from Jan and John



### **Bible Reading Group this month**

The Bible Reading group will meet on Zoom at 3.30pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Contact Mmasape if you would like to join the meeting. We will be discussing Joshua Chapters 9 to 12 and Proverbs Chapter 7.

### **Church Prayer Meeting**

Church Prayer Meeting is on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 7.15pm to 7.45pm. We are praying in our own homes until we can again meet together in the Minister's Vestry. There will be a prayer sheet to guide our prayers on the Church website. Physically separated but united in Spirit. Let us pray together for our Church and our World.

### **Jan and John**

Colin Rodway shares his joy that the football season has started and because of Covid19 all the Bristol Rovers games are being streamed live on the internet. 'I haven't been to see them...they have come to see me!

To those who don't like football you won't understand how good this feels.' And not only that, but Pauline has come home. A very happy man. **Joy Indeed.**

### **Seriously.....**

Recently I remarked to my son that I intended to do some serious walking, to which he replied 'what's serious walking, walking is walking?' I started to explain what I meant but then decided to think about it in the meantime. For a start I had to have some idea how far my walk would take me and

allow time for my return as I did not intend to hop on a bus in order to get home. This walk was going to be a serious one.

Weather conditions had to be considered as early Autumn, although usually pleasant can be unpredictable, so a small umbrella should suffice, just in case. Clothing to be comfy and casual as I wasn't planning to trek the Himalayas. I wasn't planning to tread rough terrain; therefore, a good pair of trainers would keep me steady while hiking boots are at the ready. Rucksack or bag? I certainly wasn't going to need to carry overnight clothes unless I collapse from exhaustion and need accommodation, be it a B & B or an A & E, so a bag it will be.

I have digressed into poet mode and for a brief moment, almost changed my mind and wondered if becoming a poet would be a worthwhile occupation..... Back on track, ( excuse the pun) I had to decide if I should walk with a companion so I tentatively approached my friends and asked, 'Would any of you like to come for a serious walk?' Their response was, 'no thanks'. It came as no surprise to me as their feet were definitely not going anywhere other than the nearest Miller and Carter.

A bag would be the best option for starters and contents would consist of, keys, mask, money, water and snacks in that order.

I remember a long time ago, my English teacher telling me that when writing a story, the reader must be captivated in the first paragraph, so with that in mind dear reader, if I have managed to capture you, my destination will be revealed next month.

Clue: It took 3 hours to walk there and back.

**What a cliff-hanger, watch this space!**

**Ann Dellow**

## **REDBRIDGE FOOD BANK**

**The Drive was happy to support the Food Bank with this year's Harvest gifts.**

Jubilee Church 14 Granville Road Ilford IG1 4JY

020 8518 0056

Website <http://redbridge.foodbank.org.uk/>

Continue to support the foodbank by helping to fill the foodbank box in the church foyer. **Apart from food- Urgently needed are toilet rolls, shampoo, shower gel, size 6 nappies.**

*Father, providing food for your children,  
your wisdom guiding teaches us share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing, sister  
and brother may know your care.*

*Then will your blessing reach every people;  
each one confessing your gracious hand.  
When you are reigning, no one will  
hunger: your love sustaining fruitful  
the land.*

**Albert Frederick Bayly STF 125**

## **A FINAL PRAYER**

*Here am I, Lord*

*I've come to do your will.*

*Here am I, Lord,*

*In your presence I am still*

**NORTHUMBRIA COMMUNITY**

***Last date for items for the November newsletter:  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021***